

Sec 4-02 Ed Op.

CIA 8-02

Pers. Russell, (Sen.) Rick B.

Front Page	Editor Page	Other Page
LEWISTON, IDAHO TRIBUNE		
M. 18,470		
S. 18,925		
SEP 9 1967		

It's Something, But Not Enough

We probably should all be grateful that Sen. Richard B. Russell has relented enough to permit three members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to attend a secret briefing on the war in Vietnam by the Central Intelligence Agency. Senator Russell is so jealous of his powers as the chairman of the Senate's CIA watchdog committee, that he refused to submit last summer to a proposal that the Foreign Relations Committee be represented on his little group. This has prevented a vitally concerned committee of the Senate from finding out from the CIA just what it is doing in Southeast Asia and what it knows about the war in Vietnam.

Now, in what looks like a compromise, Senator Russell has invited Sen. J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and two other members of the committee to sit in on the closed-door meeting with the CIA this week. That will help, but it is not enough.

Something is dangerously wrong

when the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee may query the Central Intelligence Agency about a matter of vital concern to his committee only on the invitation of another senator — and in this case a senator who disagrees fundamentally with him on military policies in Asia. Something is wrong when the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is not permitted to know how the CIA is spending its money and what functions it is performing in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia — information he could acquire only through membership on a committee from which he now is barred.

The Foreign Relations Committee should be represented on the CIA watchdog group, and we hope the new Congress will see that it is. In the meantime, Senator Russell can serve the best interests of the country by sharing his unique access to the CIA with Senator Fulbright and others with legitimate interests in its activities. — L. H.